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First International Francophone Youth Festival a resounding success

The first International Francophone Youth Festival, held in Quebec City from August 13 to 24, ended the way it began — with music. As at all the other Festival events, enthusiasm was the keynote of the final presentation involving musicians from Africa and Quebec in an extraordinary concert made up of works created at this meeting of artists from many parts of the world.

For 12 days, some 1,800 delegates from the 26 member countries of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation celebrated the tie that unites them beyond all racial, cultural and political differences — the French language. Not all the performances were in French, however: there were plays in Arabic and songs in Vietnamese and various African languages. Yet this variety did not detract from the unity of the theme — it simply enriched it.

Perhaps even more than the presentations, the "Village des Arts" was the very heart of the Festival for both the representatives from abroad and the people of Quebec. In the various pavilions the work of craftsmen from four continents was displayed — leather-

work, articles of wood and wicker, woven goods, and metalwork — demonstrating that high-quality craftsmanship is not unique to any one nation.

Track and field events, sky diving and volley ball were all included in the sports program, not to mention the traditional forms of hand-to-hand combat which proved an enlightening experience and attracted substantial crowds of curious spectators. The *Société d'Accueil*, an independent company responsible for organizing the Festival, estimated that in all, almost one million people attended the 692 activities of the "Super Franco Fête".

There was a feeling of sadness at the closing ceremonies when Richard Drouin, president of the *Société d'Accueil*, returned the Festival's flag to Mr. Dankoulodo Dan Dicko, Secretary-General of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation.

A second International Francophone Youth Festival is to be held, possibly in Abidjan or Brussels, the date also yet to be determined. Meanwhile, the "Super Franco Fête" will live on in the memory of Quebecers and all those who came to share in the festivities.



A scene from one of the spectacles presented at the Festival.